

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 16, to page 4, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

Regarding the input binary image data corresponding to a picture or a photograph, which requires gradation representation, the image data is normally supplied to a ~~print~~ print engine after a gradation process such as a Dither process or an error diffusion process is applied. On the other hand, the image data corresponding to characters is supplied to the print engine without being subjected to the gradation process since the character image requires sharpness to increase the character recognition rate. The above-mentioned processes are applied to the image data when the image data is subjected to the raster image development in the controller.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 12-19, with the following amended paragraph:

The multiple value image data may include a character image or a frame image having jaggy portions. Accordingly, if the multiple value smoothing process is applied only to the binary image data, the multiple value image data is not subjected to the smoothing process. As a result ~~there still be a problem~~ there is still a problem in that the jaggy portions remain in the character image or the frame image represented by the multiple value image data.